



The Maine Farmer.

N. T. TRUE, Editor.
Our Home, Our Country, and our Brother Man.

Curing Hay.

Sarcosy anything is so imperfectly done on a large scale among our farmers as properly curing hay. Go to almost any farm in February and stir up the hay with a fork and a dust will arise that will almost choke a man. This is a consequence of the imperfect manner in which the crop was harvested. We read in the papers a great many rules about curing hay, and one would suppose there were no such things as shovels, forks, or stoves, but a single season in haying time in this State to know that it demands no small tact and judgment as to how to cure it, and that, properly cured, it will stand under cover without being wet. Clover hay, when stored early and wet, demands much sun and stirring to get it out of reach of wet. To be sure, if it is put into small bunches and covered with hay caps, it will be safe from injury, and be properly cured, but we speak of the situation of the great majority of farmers, who have no such protection for their hay. Many farmers are afraid to put it in a lowering weather, and wait till it is perfectly clear before they commence operations, and are even afraid to mow when the dew is on. Now we have noticed many a time that the man who mowed down his grass in dull weather was ready to get it well cured and housed in fair weather, while he who waited for a fair day to commence operations usually got his half cured when it was overtaken by a shower. Where mowing machines are used these objections are not so great, yet we think the earlier we cut our hay in the morning and have it spread out, the more likely it will be to get in from rain. The habit of stacking and lining hay does not improve it. Cattle may eat it more readily on account of the salt, but we have no confidence in storing hay in any form than that of perfectly curing it before it goes into the barn. Hay that comes out of the mow in spring bright and green contains all the nutritious properties it ever had in a dry condition, which when matted by the dew and rain, and then stored, is a very inferior article. When imperfectly cured it suffers partial decomposition, and loses its most valuable properties as an article of food. We believe it is seldom that hay cut before fully ripe is over-mature. Vast quantities are made which lack this essential condition to good hay. The introduction of the hay tedder promises to be a means of hastening the curing process of hay. As a substitute, frequently stirring hay with the fork serves to increase the evaporation of moisture. He who has a mow filled with well cured hay will have a sleek looking cattle in spring. That usually correct paper the *Rural New Yorker*, thinks that a certain amount of fermentation is necessary to make good hay. We think the less fermentation the better. Fermentation destroys the organic elements of vegetation. Our rule would be to dry it just to its wildest ferment. This is a nice point and one not always under the control of the hay-maker.

Poll-Evil—Construction of Stables.

MISS. EDITORS.—I wish to inquire through the *Farmer* what appears the poll-evil on horses has been the result of the use of poll-covers. I have a valuable three-year-old colt which I noticed a short time since had a bunch on the head, of a narrow long shape, pointing from one ear to the other. Please inform us if it appears like the poll-evil, and generally oblige.
W. J. C.
Jackson, June 1866.

If your colt has been in the habit of hanging back in the halter while in the stable, if you have kept him in a low stable where he may have been hit to his head, or if he has received any external injury, it may have caused poll-evil. May be the best veterinary advice is to get about half a pound of poll-evil by reduced to this one, viz: external injury. From whatever cause this injury may have arisen, a swelling near the top of the head becomes noticeable in a few weeks thereafter. Oftentimes, however, this swelling never becomes prominent, though abundant evidence of poll-evil may be present. In such instances it is always more difficult to treat, but if considerably swollen the injury is treated near the surface, and therefore easier to be treated. The part should be first blistered, the process being kept up daily until considerable irritation is produced. For this blister, Mayhew recommends spiritous or acetous tincture of cantharides, applied with a soft brush. When the swelling becomes soft, have the animal cast, and open the spot with a sharp, clean knife. Be sure to do it with caution, but with a firm hand, and having reached the heart of the disorder empty out all concrete matter and wash out the part with a sponge and cold spring water. After this, rub the side of the wound with liniment, and let the horse rise. Moisture the sore three times a day with a solution of chloride of zinc, one grain to an ounce of water. Place a cloth dipped in a solution of tar over the wound to keep off the flies.

New Publications.

PRACTICAL AND SCIENTIFIC FISH CULTURE. By CHAS. R. BAKER, of the Department of Agriculture. Illustrated. Boston: Lee & Shepard. 1866. Large 12mo.

Nothing more timely since that the above work was announced as in press, we doubted seriously if another work on fish culture was wanted, remembering the valuable treatise of Downing, Barry, Thomas and others with which all fish growers are more or less familiar. The work has appeared however, and a brief examination of its contents has convinced us how much at fault our previous opinion was. Instead of reading like a book which we are not familiar with, as we expected, it is entirely original, and containing as it does the latest information, shows how well it was needed. The author's list of fruits for different States, is well selected and judicious, and his views are, on the whole, as the title indicates, both practical and scientific. The illustrations are all new, and are a great aid in understanding the text. Without wishing to detract from the reputation of any who have preceded him, we think that this work has more than made up for itself.

Practical Entomology.—No. 8.

INSECTS INJURIOUS TO THE APPLE. In continuing this article on the insects injurious to the apple as a tree and fruit, we shall refer more briefly to the different species than in the preceding papers. The caterpillar is the most common and destructive of the two striped borer, and tent caterpillar as being most destructive are the tree lice or species of aphids. These are all small insects of the order of the Homoptera, and are distinguished by a beak for piercing and sucking the juices of the plants on which they are found. The species most common and injurious to the apple tree is the bark scale, or a species of the genus *Aspidiotus*, known as inhabiting young trees and the twigs and limbs of larger ones. They cause great damage by sucking the juices of the plant, and by their excrement, which is a sticky substance, and by their excrement, which is a sticky substance, and by their excrement, which is a sticky substance.

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OF SERVICE—One hundred hours to warrant, no
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of good names, at the stable of the subscribers in North Portland, Me., 28th of March, 1866. **JOHN S. RICHMOND & SON** 4c117

NORTH PORTLAND, ME., 28th, 1866.

MAINE BLACK HAWK.

This young Stallion was sired by "Black Hawk," the champion of his kind, and the dam of this horse is a superior mare of the Morgan breed, and is a descendant of the famous "Black Hawk" of the same name and style without fail, and a very fast traveler.

For further particulars, apply to the stable of the subscribers in EXETER, N. H.

TEAR-18-25 to Warran; 20 to Warran; 25 to Warran. **W. R. FERGUSON** 2c50

Exeter, April 28th, 1866.


HONEST GEN. KNOL.


This Stallion will stand at my stable, near the corner of the Kennebec Bridge, for the month of May, at the number of good mares for the season. He is three years of age, and has won the first prize at the Maine State Fair.

TERMS:—Warran \$25 for the season \$20 to Warran; 25 to Warran; 25 to Warran. **JOHN S. RICHMOND & SON** 2c54

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SHERMAN BLACK HAWK.

Star of Gen. Knox.

 Will make the season of 1906, at the FARM OF DAVID A. ARTEL, FAIRMOUTH, N.J.
Normal Fifty Dollars for the Season.
 Post Office Address, Portland, Me.
 SUI DAVID ARTEL.

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 Will stand for service the present season on MONDAYS and SATURDAYS at the private stables just north of Williams House, Warren, N.J.
 FURNISHES FEED AND PHLEGEAS KEENE'S MILK. WEDNESDAY, THURSDAY, FRIDAY AND SUNDAY, CHARGE.
 Terms—\$25, \$15, \$10. ALFRED W. HENRY, Proprietor
 Warrenville, June 16, 1906.

